

important thing, I think, if we are ever going to get anywhere on these waste issues is to build in a process that truly involves the public and builds public acceptance and I'm glad for that reason that the bill is out here so that we can debate this and I hope there will be some coverage of it because it needs to be talked about. We have many serious tasks before us in Nebraska before we have adequately resolved these waste issues. We have more serious tasks at a national level and it needs to be talked about. It doesn't need to be advanced today but it sure needs to be talked about. Relative to that Task Force that keeps being referred to, I don't recall exactly how it was appointed. I became aware of it last summer and I would suggest to you that it, in fact, was not as representative as it's going to have to be to get us someplace. I'm sure all those folks were well-intentioned people but I don't think we're where we need to be yet in terms of public acceptance and public information. The same liability issues apply on this issue as do on the low-level issues, the same siting issues. There are so many different kinds of wastes that you have really got to develop some sophistication about these various types, I think, before we can even begin to talk about it. And there, frankly, isn't a whole bunch of expertise in Nebraska or anyplace else, specifically, about how to deal with waste issues. That, I think, is going to be one of the great challenges to this state and to the nation in the next decade. We have a tremendous amount of work to do and there is no guarantee that we are going to be able to do it without a lot of pain, I'm afraid. Senator Landis's comments regarding the federal mandates, the federal preemptions, let me just remind you that that is how we got where we are today on the low-level radioactive waste issue. We were told that we had certain hoops we had to jump through and if we didn't, there would be all these horrible things happen to us. The feds eventually extended that time line, passed another piece of legislation. I am not sure that this is completely out of the federal bailiwick yet. I can tell you that the amount of anger that is building out there in the states about how we have handled low-level radioactive waste may make it impossible for Congress to continue to just dump this in the states' laps. I'm not sure that that will not be tossed back and I think it's unwise to move hastily simply because of the current federal mandate. The issue has to be addressed. It requires study. It requires very careful study. It requires an informed public which is going to be a mighty task to accomplish given the emotions that this kind of issue generates. And I think it's going to take a lot of rational information giving. It's going to require us, as a state, to develop expertise that we do not